

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints;

wherein the converter is a transcoder and the converter hints are transcoding hints, and wherein the transcoder is informed of a quantization factor to use in order to achieve a desired bit rate or to re-encode at least a portion of the multimedia information at a bit rate that is a percentage of the one in which the information is initially coded; and

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

19. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise image cropping transcoding hints selected from the group consisting of:

information about a desired cropping location and shape;

whether it is preferable to provide a full version of the image with a reduced background quality; and

whether it is preferable to crop the image to only contain a specific region of interest; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints;

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

20. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a bandwidth range that represents a range in bandwidth that a video sequence can be transcoded to; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints; and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

21. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a computational complexity that indicates the amount of processing power that a conversion algorithm consumes; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints; and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

22. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a quality range that indicates a measurement of how much a peak signal to noise ratio is lowered by performing transcoding; and  
converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints;  
and,  
providing the multimedia information to the requester.

23. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;  
receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including motion vector predictors starting and ending frames for motion vector refinements; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints;  
and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

24. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;  
receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints relating to frame rate reduction, including identification of key frames to be excluded from being dropped; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints;  
and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

25. (New) A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

wherein said conversion hints comprise a video mixing transcoding hint associated with a portion of the video in which additional information can be displayed; and

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints; and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

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